

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Birmingham, Alabama

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

June 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Birmingham, Alabama**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population (2000 Census): 242,820
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 23.5% white; 73.2% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.8% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other; 0.7% two or more races; 1.6% Hispanic/Latino origin (any race)

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Bernard Kincaid<sup>2</sup>
- City Council (Districts 1-9, respectively): Joel Montgomery; Carol Reynolds; Valerie Abbott; Gwen Pouncy Sykes; Elias Hendricks, Jr.; Carole Smitherman; Bertram Miller; Lee Wendell Loder; Roderick Royal<sup>3</sup>
- Chief of Police: Annetta Watts Nunn<sup>4</sup>
- County: Jefferson<sup>5</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>6</sup>  
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for Baldwin, Jefferson, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, and Morgan counties in Alabama. In addition to Alabama, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is also responsible for counties in Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Breaking the Cycle<sup>7</sup>  
Birmingham is one of four jurisdictions nationwide participating in Breaking the Cycle, a joint project of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the National Institute of Justice. Breaking the Cycle tests the idea that early identification and assessment of drug using defendants, followed by individualized treatment, intensive supervision, and strong judicial oversight can reduce drug use and crime. The Breaking the Cycle model includes: drug testing of all arrestees before the initial court hearing; placement of drug users in appropriate treatment and monitoring programs; intensive pretrial and post-sentence case management; appropriate, graduated sanctions and incentives to address offender behavior; and judicial oversight of offender compliance.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program<sup>8</sup>  
No community coalitions in Birmingham have ever received funding through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>9</sup>  
One site in Birmingham has received official recognition and funding as a Weed and Seed site. The target area for the Birmingham Weed and Seed site is the Northside Community.

- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Birmingham:<sup>10</sup>
  - Center for Mental Health Services:
    - \$149,773 to the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Project period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2002.
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention:
    - \$250,000 to the Children's Aid Society. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
    - \$100,000 to the Alabama Health Center. Project period: 9/30/2002-9/29/2002.
  - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment:
    - \$393,338 to the University of Alabama. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
    - \$171,309 to the Jefferson County Commission. Project period: 9/30/2000-9/29/2003.
    - \$250,000 to Alethia House. Project period: 9/30/2000-9/29/2003.
    - \$186,651 to Birmingham Health Care. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
- Birmingham did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.<sup>11</sup>
- Birmingham did not receive any methamphetamine funding in 2002 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.<sup>12</sup>
- There were no Birmingham recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.<sup>13</sup>
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts for Birmingham:<sup>14</sup>
  - \$3,152,331 in discretionary funds
  - \$852,913 in formula funds

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- There were 67 homicides known to police in Birmingham during 2002. This is a decrease of 8% from the 73 homicides known to the Birmingham Police Department in 2001.<sup>15</sup>

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Birmingham, 2001-2002

Offense	2001	2002	% change
Homicide	73	67	-8%
Rape	206	239	+16
Robbery	1,084	1,186	+9
Assault	1,664	1,697	+2
Burglary	4,079	4,389	+8
Larceny	11,928	11,640	-2
Auto theft	2,051	2,049	0

- Preliminary data for 2002 indicate that 64% of adult male arrestees in Birmingham tested positive for at least one of the following drugs at arrest: cocaine, heroin, marijuana, or methamphetamine.<sup>16</sup>

Percent of Adult Male Arrestees Testing Positive, Birmingham, 2002

Drug Type	Percent Positive
Cocaine	34.3%
Heroin	6.0
Marijuana	41.6
Methamphetamine	0.6
Any of above drugs	63.6
Multiple drugs	17.6

- Additional Birmingham arrestee drug use data for 2002 indicate that 47% of the adult males used marijuana within the past year. Among those reporting past year marijuana use, the average number of days the drug was used in the past month was 10.3 days.<sup>17</sup>

Past Drug Use Among Adult Male Arrestees, Birmingham, 2002

Drug Type	Past 7 Days	Past 30 Days	Past Year	Avg. # Days
Crack cocaine	14.6%	16.5%	18.4%	9.3 days
Powder cocaine	6.1	8.1	10.4	5.5 days
Marijuana	31.6	37.1	46.7	10.3 days
Methamphetamine	0.7	1.3	2.0	5.3 days
Heroin	0.7	0.7	1.2	8.4 days

- During 2002, there were 2,572 adult arrests in Jefferson County for drug possession.<sup>18</sup>

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Jefferson County, 2002

Drug Type	Sales	Possession
Opium/cocaine	37	1,103
Marijuana	21	1,253
Synthetic drugs	9	199
Other	28	17
Total	95	2,572

- During 2001, there were 2,714 adult arrests for drug possession in Jefferson County.<sup>19</sup>

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Jefferson County, 2001

Drug type	Sales	Possession
Opium/cocaine	34	1,172
Marijuana	14	1,372
Synthetic drugs	10	153
Other	14	17
Total	72	2,714

**Juveniles**

- During 2002, there were 178 juvenile arrests for drug possession in Jefferson County.<sup>20</sup>

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Jefferson County, 2002

Drug Type	Sales	Possession
Opium/cocaine	0	21
Marijuana	0	131
Synthetic drugs	3	25
Other	0	1
Total	3	178

- During 2001, there were 233 juvenile drug possession arrests in Jefferson County.<sup>21</sup>

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Jefferson County, 2001

Drug type	Sales	Possession
Opium/cocaine	2	30
Marijuana	1	181
Synthetic drugs	2	22
Other	0	0
Total	5	233

- Approximately 14% of the Jefferson County 8th grade students surveyed in 2002 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.<sup>22</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, Jefferson County, 2002

Substance	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Cigarettes	18%	27%	34%
Alcohol	22	31	42
Marijuana	3	12	14
Inhalants	8	13	8
Hallucinogens	2	2	1
Cocaine	2	2	1
Other drugs	5	8	9

- Forty-four percent of Jefferson County high school seniors surveyed in 2002 reported lifetime marijuana use.<sup>23</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, Jefferson County, 2002

Substance	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Cigarettes	42%	46%	54%	53%
Alcohol	51	67	72	78
Marijuana	22	35	39	44
Inhalants	15	11	8	5
Hallucinogens	7	7	9	11
Cocaine	3	5	4	6
Other drugs	17	16	17	18

- Approximately 47% of juvenile male detainees and 14% of juvenile female detainees in Birmingham during 2001 tested positive for drugs at detainment.<sup>24</sup>

Percent of Juvenile Detainees Testing Positive for Drugs, Birmingham, 2001

Offense	# of Detainees		Cocaine		Marijuana		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	18	11	5.6%	0.0%	38.9%	9.1%	44.4%	9.1%
Property	18	0	11.1	--	50.0	--	50.0	--
Drug	10	2	10.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	70.0	0.0
Sales	1	0	0.0	--	0.0	--	0.0	--
Possession	9	2	11.1	0.0	66.7	0.0	77.8	0.0
Other offense	29	9	3.4	0.0	41.4	22.2	41.4	22.2
All others	2	2	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Total	74	22	6.8	0.0	44.6	13.6	47.3	13.6

### Enforcement

- During 2002, there were 1,125 full-time law enforcement employees in Birmingham (833 officers and 292 civilians).<sup>25</sup>

### Trafficking and Seizures

- The Gulf Coast HIDTA's geographic location between the southwest border and the eastern seaboard serves as a strategic corridor for traffickers transporting drugs and money to and from the eastern and northern parts of the country.<sup>26</sup>
- The area's waterways, deepwater ports, railway and highway systems, and airports are used extensively by drug trafficking and smuggling operations.<sup>27</sup>

### Courts

- Drug Courts<sup>28</sup>  
As of May 2003, there were 2 drug courts in Birmingham that have been operating for over 2 years. No additional drug courts are in existence or being planned in Birmingham.

### Corrections

- Based on the total Alabama Department of Corrections population in April 2003 (28,338), Jefferson County contributed 16.8% of the population with 4,753 offenders.<sup>29</sup>
- Birmingham Work Release Center<sup>30</sup>  
Opened in 1973, the Birmingham Work Release Center can hold 300 male or female community custody inmates. The Center has a full-time drug treatment counselor to facilitate relapse classes and monitor active aftercare programs of recovering inmates.

### Consequences of Use

- During 2001, there were 110 drug-related deaths reported to DAWN by Medical Examiners (ME) in the Birmingham area. Narcotic analgesics were mentioned in 60 of the drug abuse deaths.<sup>31</sup>

Number of Drug Mentions Reported by ME, Birmingham, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	34	33	29	33	36
Cocaine	47	47	39	41	52
Heroin/morphine	2	--	4	3	7
Marijuana	3	2	--	2	2
Amphetamines	--	1	--	1	--
Methamphetamine	--	--	--	1	--
Club drugs	--	1	--	3	4
Hallucinogens	--	--	--	--	--
Inhalants	--	--	1	--	1
Narcotic analgesics	19	31	40	69	60
Other analgesics	11	9	14	16	11
Benzodiazepines	42	32	26	47	58
Antidepressants	22	36	40	60	51
All other substances	39	37	33	63	59
Total drug deaths	88	92	79	111	110
Total drug mentions	219	229	226	339	341

**Treatment**

- During FY 2001-2002, there were 8 facilities in Birmingham that offered substance abuse treatment services.<sup>32</sup>
- One of the facilities, Pearson Hall, offered the following services: intensive outpatient, crisis residential, and detoxification.<sup>33</sup>

Type of Service Provided, Birmingham Treatment Facilities, FY 2001-2002

Program/Facility	Intensive outpat.	Crisis resident.	Resident. rehab.	Meth- adone	Detox.
Aletheia House	X		X		
Fellowship House			X		
JCCEO	X				
Oakmont Center	X				
O'Livia's House			X		
Pearson Hall	X	X			X
St. Anne's Home			X		
UAB Sub. Abuse Prog.	X			X	

- There were 6,402 admissions to Birmingham facilities during FY 2001-2002.<sup>34</sup>

Number of Clients, Birmingham Facilities, FY 2001-2002

<b>Program/Facility</b>	<b># of Clients</b>
Aletheia House	909
Fellowship House	549
JCCEO	423
Oakmont Center	195
O’Livia’s House	63
Pearson Hall	1,744
St. Anne’s Home	93
UAB Sub. Abuse Program	2,426
Total Birmingham clients	6,402

- During FY 2001-2002, more than 4,000 of those admitted to treatment in Birmingham were referred to treatment through the criminal justice system (CJS).<sup>35</sup>

Number of Clients by Referral Source, Birmingham Facilities, FY 2001-2002

<b>Program/Facility</b>	<b>Crim. Just. related</b>	<b>Community referral</b>	<b>Doctor/Hospital</b>	<b>Mental Hlth Psych Serv.</b>
Aletheia House	521	64	13	3
Fellowship House	142	36	30	42
JCCEO	342	43	0	0
Oakmont Center	174	2	0	0
O’Livia’s House	7	2	1	3
Pearson Hall	646	124	90	126
St. Anne’s Home	16	2	9	0
UAB Sub. Abuse Prog.	2,237	9	5	2
Total Birmingham clients	4,085	282	148	176

- Nearly 800 of those that were admitted to treatment in Birmingham during FY 2001-2002 referred themselves to treatment.<sup>36</sup>

Number of Clients by Referral Source, Birmingham Facilities, FY 2001-2002

<b>Program/Facility</b>	<b>School/EAP/Human Res.</b>	<b>Relative/friend</b>	<b>Sub. ab. treatment</b>	<b>Self</b>
Aletheia House	33	101	9	165
Fellowship House	3	9	168	119
JCCEO	24	1	1	12
Oakmont Center	5	0	2	12
O’Livia’s House	16	8	13	13
Pearson Hall	74	142	215	327
St. Anne’s Home	0	2	60	4
UAB Sub. Abuse Prog.	34	15	2	122
Total Birmingham clients	189	278	470	774



- Of the 1,744 individuals being treated at Pearson Hall during FY 2001-2002, 673 had not received prior treatment. Ninety-two had received treatment 5 or more previous times.<sup>37</sup>

Number of Prior Treatment Episodes Among Clients, Birmingham, FY 2001-2002

Program/Facility	0	1	2	3	4	5+
Aletheia House	384	207	160	72	32	54
Fellowship House	82	199	125	63	29	51
JCCEO	279	85	42	11	2	4
Oakmont Center	183	6	1	0	4	1
O'Livia's House	12	20	24	6	0	1
Pearson Hall	673	532	274	123	50	92
St. Anne's Home	0	41	24	6	10	12
UAB Sub. Abuse Prog.	1,596	491	177	75	37	50

- Approximately 43% of those being treated in Aletheia House in FY 2001-2002 reported daily use of their primary drug of abuse.<sup>38</sup>

Frequency of Use of Primary Drug, Birmingham, FY 2001-2002

Program/Facility	Daily use	1-2/ week	1-3/ month	3-6/ week	No past mth use	Other
Aletheia House	42.57%	13.31%	10.45%	16.17%	17.49%	0%
Fellowship House	9.84	10.56	21.68	6.19	51.73	0
JCCEO	34.52	18.91	4.96	27.90	13.48	0.24
Oakmont Center	16.92	18.46	13.85	8.72	42.05	0
O'Livia's House	80.95	4.76	4.76	1.59	7.94	0
Pearson Hall	52.92	9.86	6.48	17.72	12.96	0.06
St. Anne's Home	76.34	3.23	5.38	13.98	1.08	0
UAB Sub. Abuse	30.92	21.27	14.26	12.94	18.76	1.85

- Of the clients being treated at Aletheia House during FY 2001-2002, 383 (42.13%) had used drugs for more than 15 years before being treated.<sup>39</sup>

Number of Clients by Years of Use Before Admission, Birmingham, FY 2001-2002

Program/Facility	<1	1-5	6-9	10-15	>15
Aletheia House	8	141	153	224	383
Fellowship House	0	60	61	101	327
JCCEO	3	63	69	109	179
Oakmont Center	6	35	44	51	59
O'Livia's House	1	6	12	17	27
Pearson Hall	16	310	273	354	791
St. Anne's Home	0	29	17	10	37
UAB Sub. Abuse	27	804	542	448	605

## Sources

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>2</sup> Birmingham Mayor Web site: <http://www.informationbirmingham.com/mayor/mayor.htm>
- <sup>3</sup> Birmingham City Council Web site: <http://www.informationbirmingham.com/citycouncil/citycouncil.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Birmingham Press Release, "Mayor Kincaid Taps Nunn as Birmingham's First Female Police Chief," February 11, 2003: <http://www.informationbirmingham.com/pressrele/nunn.htm>
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>6</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_gulf.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_gulf.html)
- <sup>7</sup> National Institute of Justice, Breaking the Cycle Program Web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/brekprog.htm>
- <sup>8</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, Alabama section: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/al.html>
- <sup>9</sup> Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center Web site, Alabama section: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/map.aspx?state=AL>
- <sup>10</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2001 Discretionary Funds, Alabama: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states01/al.htm>
- <sup>11</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs FY 2002 Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>
- <sup>12</sup> Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002: [http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth\\_grantees.pdf](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf)
- <sup>13</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development, *FY 2001 Federally Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report*: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>
- <sup>14</sup> Office of Justice Programs, Alabama FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2002grants/map/al.htm>
- <sup>15</sup> Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, *Crime in Alabama 2002*, 2003: <http://acjic.state.al.us/cia02/CIA2002.htm>
- <sup>16</sup> National Institute of Justice, *Preliminary Data on Drug Use & Related Matters Among Adult Arrestees and Juvenile Detainees*, 2002, 2003: [http://www.adam-nij.net/files/2002\\_Preliminary\\_Data.pdf](http://www.adam-nij.net/files/2002_Preliminary_Data.pdf)
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup> Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, *Drug Arrests by County*, 2002: <http://acjic.state.al.us/cia02/drugbycounty/02DRUGSBYCOUNTY.htm>
- <sup>19</sup> Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, *Drug Arrests by County*, 2001: <http://acjic.state.al.us/cia01/drugbycounty/01DRUGSBYCOUNTY.htm>
- <sup>20</sup> Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, *Drug Arrests by County*, 2002: <http://acjic.state.al.us/cia02/drugbycounty/02DRUGSBYCOUNTY.htm>
- <sup>21</sup> Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, *Drug Arrests by County*, 2001: <http://acjic.state.al.us/cia01/drugbycounty/01DRUGSBYCOUNTY.htm>
- <sup>22</sup> Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, *Alabama Student Survey of Risk and Protective Factors: County Profiles*, September 2002: <http://www.mh.state.al.us/admin/downloads/SubstanceAbuse/2002StatewideStudentSurveyofRiskandProtectiveFactors.pdf>
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>24</sup> National Institute of Justice, *ADAM Annualized Site Reports*, 2001, 2003: [http://www.adam-nij.net/files/2001\\_AnnualizedSiteReports.pdf](http://www.adam-nij.net/files/2001_AnnualizedSiteReports.pdf)
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- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State*, May 22, 2003: <http://www.american.edu/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>

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<sup>29</sup> Alabama Department of Corrections, April 2003 Monthly Statistical Report:  
<http://www.doc.state.al.us/docs/MonthlyRpts/2003-04.pdf>

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<http://www.doc.state.al.us/facilities/bham.htm>

<sup>31</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mortality Data From the Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2001*, January 2003: <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/mortality2k1.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, *Client Admission Profile of the Alabama Department of MH-MR Substance Abuse Services Division, FY 2001-2002*:  
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<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

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